

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1-28 (canceled):

Claim 29 (currently amended): A method of providing a pet with at least one benefit ~~selected from the group consisting of gut function, outward appearance, physical and mental activity and aging, the benefit~~ relating to an effective assimilation of a lipid or lipid fraction, the method comprising: the steps of

administering to the pet an edible composition comprising a pancreatic function promoter comprising ~~at least a pancreatic extract~~ lipase and a ~~promoter selected from the group consisting of liver function promoter~~ comprising taurine ranging from about 0.1% to about 1% by weight on a dry matter basis and an intestinal mucosa function promoter.

Claim 30 (previously presented): A method according to claim 29 wherein the pancreatic function-promoter further comprises a gut pH modifier selected from the group consisting of an acidifier, an alkalinizer, a buffer, a prebiotic and a probiotic micro-organism.

Claims 31-34 (canceled):

Claim 35 (previously presented): A method according to claim 29 wherein the composition is in the form of a nutritionally balanced, ready-to-eat meal.

Claim 36 (previously presented): A method according to claim 35 wherein the composition comprises a dried kibble.

Claim 37 (previously presented): A method according to claim 29 wherein the composition is administered as a meal supplement.

Claim 38 (previously presented): A method according to claim 29 wherein the outward appearance is observable in any one or more of: improved body condition; improved muscle tone; and improved skin and coat condition.

Claim 39 (currently amended): A nutrition management regimen for a pet animal, the regimen comprising a dietary component for feeding regularly in an effective lipid assimilation-promoting amount to a pet animal, the of a dietary component comprising a pancreatic function promoter comprising at least a pancreatic ~~extract~~ lipase and at least one or more of a promoter selected from the group consisting of liver function promoter and an intestinal mucosa function-promoter comprising at least one of an omega-3 fatty acid and a lactoferrin.

Claims 40-43 (previously presented):

Claim 44 (currently amended): A regimen according to claim 39 wherein the intestinal mucosa function-promoter further includes a component selected from the group consisting of a ~~fat transportation aid, agent and carrier~~ a whey protein, a protease and combinations thereof.

Claims 45-52 (canceled):

Claim 53 (previously presented): A regimen according to claim 51 wherein the benefit that is related to outward appearance is observable in any one or more of the attributes selected from the group consisting of improved body condition; improved muscle tone; and improved skin and coat condition.

Claim 54 (currently amended): An edible composition ~~in~~ for a pet animal, the composition comprising a pancreatic function-promoter comprising at least a pancreatic ~~extract~~ lipase and at least one promoter selected from the group consisting of a liver function-promoter and an intestinal mucosa function-promoter comprising taurine ranging from about 0.1% to

about 1% by weight on a dry matter basis in an amount sufficient to effect lipid assimilation in the pet.

Claim 55 (currently amended): A method of improving the appearance of a pet animal, the method comprising: ~~the step of~~

increasing the pet's capability to assimilate fat in its diet by feeding the pet a diet that contains a pancreatic function promoter comprising at least a pancreatic ~~extract~~ lipase and a promoter selected from the group consisting of a liver function promoter, an intestinal mucosa function promoter or a combination thereof comprising at least one of an omega-3 fatty acid and a lactoferrin.

Claim 56 (canceled):